

Excerpt from article in Japan Times dated August 6, 1931.

"War Minister General Minami's speech delivered at the conference of division commanders Tuesday has caused a great sensation in various quarters, especially because of his reference to the Manchurian situation.

"Among others, the younger Diet members of the Minseito were infuriated at what they call the militarists' attempt to interfere with politics, while some Upper House members also voiced unreserved criticism for the same reason.

"The press was quick in taking up the issue. The Tokyo Asahi and the Jiji editorially scored General Minami Wednesday morning, and the Tokyo Nichi Nichi, the Hochi and several other papers followed suit Thursday morning.

"What He Said

"The paragraphs of General Minami's speech which were made the chief target of unfavorable criticism follows:

"The army reform project embodies our minimum demands necessary for the renovation of the army. Moreover, it will involve very great sacrifice for the army when enforced.

"In spite of this, certain outsiders in irresponsible positions or those who are not seriously concerned with national defense are prone to think that the army authorities dare to make undue demands regardless of the present conditions of the nation.

"Some other observers, without studying the conditions of neighboring foreign countries, hastily advocate limitation of armaments and engage in propaganda unfavorable for the nation and the army.

"Again some others attempt to take advantage of the present psychology of the people, who happen to be feeling financial and economic uneasiness with a view to reducing the army for domestic reasons.

"Correct Mistakes

"I hope you will cooperate with the War Ministry authorities to make efforts to correct such mistakes for the purpose of bettering understanding and cooperation between."

military and civil circles in this country with the Imperial family as our center.

"Manchuria and Mongolia are very closely related to our country from the viewpoint of our national defense as well as of politics and economics.

"It is to be regretted that the recent situation in that part of China is following a trend unfavorable to our Empire.

"The recent change in international politics and the recent decline of Japan's prestige coupled with the recent ascendancy of anti-foreign agitation and new economic power in China, are responsible for such a tendency, which is a phenomenon of permanent duration instead of being a passing one.

"In view of such a situation, I hope you will execute your duty in educating and training the troops with enthusiasm and sincerity so that you may serve the cause of His Majesty to perfection." ***